

HECB names new chair, other officers for 2009

The Higher Education Coordinating Board has elected new officers for 2009, naming Jesus Hernandez of Wenatchee as board chair, Earl Hale of Lacey as vice chair and Roberta Greene of Spokane as secretary.

Hernandez, who was appointed to the HECB by Gov. Chris Gregoire in 2007, will take over the chairmanship duties from outgoing Chair Bill Grinstein, whose current four-year term expires next June.

The Board also announced that Charley Bingham of Fox Island (Pierce County) and Sam Smith of Seattle will continue to serve as chairs of the HECB Fiscal and Education committees, respectively. Gene Colin of Seattle will assume the duties of Financial Aid Committee chair previously performed by Hernandez. [See Board member bios.](#)

Bad weather shortens HECB's December agenda

The Higher Education Coordinating Board held an abbreviated December meeting by phone after snow and ice forced cancellation of the regularly scheduled meeting at South Seattle Community College.

The HECB's January 23, 2009 meeting in Olympia will include some items that had been scheduled for December. They tentatively include a report from Dan Grimm, chair of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance, who will discuss task force recommendations and ways of partnering on higher education.

The Board is expected to review a draft white paper discussing the benefits of higher education for individuals, society, and the state economy. It also will receive reports on student financial aid programs, and on the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program.

Governor's budget proposal requires tough decisions but preserves higher ed stability

Ann Daley, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board, said the proposed 2009-2011 budget cuts present a serious challenge for state higher education institutions as they attempt to maintain their current level of core services. However, she added, the cuts are less than initially expected and far less than in past recessions.

"In the past, higher education has had to bear a disproportionate share of the budget reductions during economic downturns," Daley said.

"Viewed with hindsight, the cuts proposed in Gov. Gregoire's budget are far less severe than those in past cycles and will help us preserve the basic integrity of our mission. However, there is no silver lining here."

She emphasized the cuts could result in severe consequences for some institutions and would stop progress toward the long-term goals to educate more Washingtonians, a key goal of the 2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education. Larger class sizes, reduced access, cuts in student services, and employee layoffs can be expected, she added.

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WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

A report on the December 2008 Board Meeting



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Mark your calendars:

The HECB will hold its
next board meeting on
Friday, Jan. 23

State Investment Board
Room, 2100 Evergreen
Park Drive SW, Olympia

Check back in mid-January
for agenda items at:

www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp